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RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA 7122  
RUEHBU/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES 4382  
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS 1666  
RUEHPE/AMEMBASSY LIMA 1667  
RUEHMN/AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO 3880  
RUEHQT/AMEMBASSY QUITO 4300  
RUEHSG/AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO 8853  
RHMFISS/HQ USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL  
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STATE FOR WHA/AND L.PETRONI

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/26/2016

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SUBJECT: LATEST POLLS ON CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY

Classified By: Amb. David N. Greenlee for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

¶1. (SBU) With less than a week before the July 2 Constituent Assembly elections, a June 17-18 Apoyo opinion poll of all nine department capitals projects the MAS will win at least 114 of 255 seats in the Assembly. According to the poll, MAS candidates are likely to win 14 of the 45 department-wide (plurinominal) and 100 of the 210 district (uninominal) contests. The MAS is followed by Podemos, which is expected to garner 12 department-wide and 66 district seats, and the National Unity (UN) party, projected to win 7 plurinominal and 5 uninominal seats.

¶2. (SBU) The poll also indicates that the referendum on departmental autonomy will pass in four departments (Beni, Santa Cruz, Tarija, and Pando). According to the poll, two departments are too close to call (Chuquisaca and Cochabamba), and three departments (Potosi, La Paz and Oruro) are expected to vote against autonomy.

¶3. (C) Comment: Polling for the Constituent Assembly election has been very thin. The Apoyo poll has two principal weaknesses -- it did not take into account voter absenteeism (which could be around 40 percent, according to some analysts), and it failed to cover rural areas where the MAS is strongest. The poll's prediction that the MAS will garner 40 percent of the national vote is out of line with general expectations here. Most analysts believe the MAS will win 48 to 52 percent of the national vote. The poll's projections that Podemos will win around 20 percent and the National Unity party will win around 10 percent of the national vote may be more accurate since the opposition is stronger in urban areas. End comment.  
GREENLEE